



Grays Harbor Chapter Of ABATE



Haunted Hoquiam Trick or Treat

This has got to be my favorite event of the year! So many creative costumes, so many families out with their kids having fun. I took 78 pictures that day and this newsletter could easily go on for 20 pages just showing my favorite kid of the day. And it wasn't only the kids showing off their costumes, many parents dressed up too, and even some of the dogs were in costume.



Judging by the trick-or-treaters we met we have a very bright future here on the harbor. At least our public services seem to be in good hands.

I believe no fire has a chance against this young lady and her can do attitude.



Escaped criminals like our Trevor also seem to stand no chance against this young man and his searching questions.





Sy the tree really got the party started. After the initial scare the pretty girl below wanted her picture taken with Sy, then the photo frenzy commenced. All the other kids wanted pictures too.



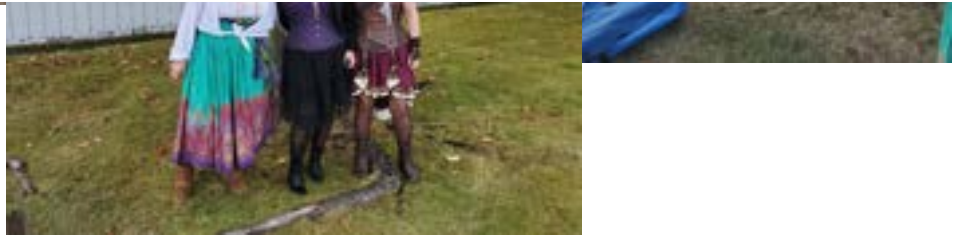
It was a while before we actually had a chance to get a father and son photo. We are not going to discuss family resemblance, but the son got the better deal for sure.

Our candy crew has grown from last year. Besides our ever faithful Trevor, and Sy the photo op we added, Secretary Sharon the gypsy, who brought decorations and saw a fun event in her crystal ball. Marissa, who was instrumental in getting our stand arranged last year brought a friend to assist her, Steve helped in guiding in trick-or-treaters and handing out candy, and Event Chair Edie arranged time and place for set up. As awesome as her witch costume was last year I was glad to see her pretty face this time.



Sharon, Edie, and I have decided to work on a group

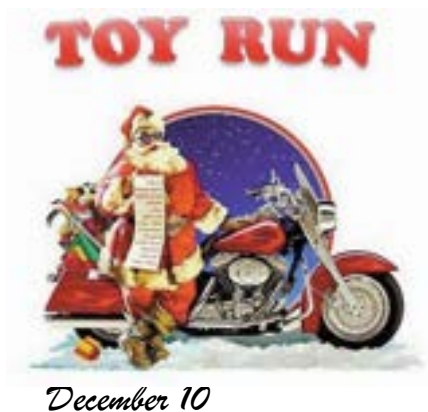
Sharon, Edie, and I have decided to work on group costumes in the coming year, though we have not yet decided on a theme. Anyone want to join in?



Upcoming Events!



We will be meeting at the Hoquiam VFW on November 19 at 11 AM to give away turkey meals again. This was a very popular event last year, and this year we had enough donations to double our meal boxes! There are 10 to give away this year, and some still need to find a home. If you know of a deserving family where funds are tight please let us know. Edie is taking names at smithedie8@gmail.com. If you don't have a name, but want to join in you can come by bike or by car and meet us at the VFW at 11 PM. I hear there is dry weather in the forecast this time!



This year's toy run will be on December 10 after our chapter meeting at the VFW. Remember all the toys piled up at last year's meeting? I expect this year will be even better. Katie is getting excited, she has already received the first donations for this year and is working hard on collecting more.

You can bring your own contributions to the meeting on December 10th. Wouldn't it be a sight if we could fill that room upstairs at the VFW? (OK, that's asking a lot, but a girl can dream.)

You could decorate your bike for that event, that would be fun. I think we will also need a couple cars for transport. We did last year, and Katie plans to see hers crammed full. Let's see if we can do the same to yours.

We are also planning to combine the toy run with the blanket giveaway, so vehicles will definitely be welcome at this event as well.

Coordinator doesn't get to ramble this time

Pat is a little busy, and the poor guy also has a cold, so I didn't force him to sit down and put his thoughts on paper. He did have a very good point to make at the November meeting, and I'd like to paraphrase it her:

Some of us remember the huge meetings of past years when large chapters attended meetings and we could give away hundreds of Thanksgiving meals. Those days are past, and we might be a bit disappointed about that. We shouldn't be.

This chapter has made a come back during hard economic times and while the whole world is suffering from a pandemic. While giving away 5 turkey meal kits may not seem as impressive as past events nobody can deny the difference those meals made to the households who received them last year, or the gratification we felt in being able to provide them. The same is true for the toys we gave to children last Christmas, and the blankets we distributed to folks at the nursing home.

Something to be especially proud of is the Endorsement Scholarship Program our chapter put together this past year. After a

rocky start we now have our first participants to show it is possible and a great relationship with a school.

We are hoping to present this program at the next ABATE ecom meeting in the hope to get other chapters to follow suit. Pat wants to ask the board of directors to let our Grays Harbor Chapter spearhead efforts to get young people trained and endorsed. We even have a driving school teacher/owner willing to come to a BOD to speak to ABATE about training!

All these things we achieved this past year are so very much worth doing, so let's be proud of what we accomplished and keep doing it.